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ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL SCIENCES, 1946 - 1948

A general meeting of the Department of Technical Sciences of the Academy of Sciences USSR was held 3 June 1949. A report on the activity of this department for 1946 - 1948 was given by Academician-Secretary B. A. Vvedenskiy. Academicians Ye. A. Chudakov and I. P. Bardin and A. A. Il'yushin, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences USSR, took part in the discussion of the report.

In accepting the report, the general assembly passed resolutions complimenting the Department of Technical Sciences on achieving good results in carrying out its annual objectives during this period, as well as for the development of research on the basic problems of the Five-Year Plan. Scientific institutions of the Department of Technical Sciences carried out a number of projects on new techniques in machine and instrument construction, metallurgy, power engineering, and other fields of the national economy. Many projects have already been introduced into the national economy, while others are in the process of being introduced or undergoing industrial tests.

Authors of 11 works received Stalin Prizes; two authors were awarded the Prize imeni S. A. Chaplygin and the Prize imeni P. L. Chebyshev; and nine were awarded the prizes of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

During 1946 - 1948, scientists of the Department of Technical Sciences published 1,640 scientific works: in 1946, 30 books and 350 articles; in 1947, 60 books and 500 articles; and in 1948, 100 books and 600 articles.

The staff of the Department of Technical Sciences was reinforced in 1946 by the election of new academicians and corresponding members.

Measures were taken to improve the ideological and political consciousness as well as the scientific qualifications of department collaborators. A project was begun to determine the quality of work of the directors of laboratories, and senior scientific collaborators, and to examine the state of affairs prevailing in graduate work.

In addition to positive results, the assembly noted the following shortcomings: The Bureau of the Department of Technical Sciences and the directors of

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scientific institutions did not attain sufficient concentration of manpower and materials for solving the basic problems of the Five-Year Plan for the Academy of Sciences USSR. There was not only insufficient cooperation of department institutions with outside organizations (republic academies, branch institutes, ministries and plants) but also among themselves, especially in regard to complex problems. It was noted, in particular that the experimental program of the department was inadequate, and that criticism and self-criticism had not developed to the extent desired. Moreover, the Bureau and institutions of the Department of Technical Sciences did not fully carry out the 26 August 1948 decision of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences USSR concerning the status and tasks of biological science.

The following officers were elected:

Academician-Secretary of the Department of Technical Sciences, Academician B. A. Vvedenskiy; Deputy Academician-Secretaries, Academicians I. I. Artobolevskiy and A. A. Blagonravov; Members of the Bureau of the Department of Technical Sciences Academicians I. P. Bardin, A. I. Berg, A. V. Vinter, S. S. Nametkin, A. M. Terpigorev, and Ye. A. Chudakov Corresponding Members A. A. Il'yushin, A. M. Samarin, A. B. Chernyshev and N. G. Chetayev and Doctor of Technical Sciences S. I. Kosterin. Another member of the bureau, Corresponding Member I. A. Oding, was also elected a Deputy Academician-Secretary on 11 June 1947.

The application of Corresponding Member G. V. Akimov to be transferred from the Department of Technical Sciences to the Department of Chemical Sciences was approved.

Two reports, "The Problem of Durability in Machine Construction" by I. A. Oding and "Basic Problems of the Theory of Plasticity and Its Application in Engineering" by A. A. Il'yushin were read at the general meeting of the Department of Technical Sciences on 7 June 1949. I. I. Artobolevskiy and B. A. Vvedenskiy participated in the subsequent discussion, as well as Corresponding Members V. P. Vologdin, N. P. Shchapov, and Yu. N. Rabotnov.

The assembly approved the direction of the work of the Institute of Machine Studies and the Institute of Mechanics in developing the problems of durability, and expressed a wish for greater cooperation between Academy and Branch scientific research institutes in further research on this problem.

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